

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00

ACDE-00 /026 W
----- 073184

P 021730Z APR 75

FM USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2526
INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

S E C R E T SALT TWO GENEVA 0119

EXDIS/SALT

DEPT ALSO PASS DOD

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: DRAFT NAC LETTER (SALT TWO-590)

REF: USNATO 1568, STATE 066561

1. FOLLOWING, FOR WASHINGTON COMMENTS OR CONCURRENCE, IS THE TEXT OF A DRAFT LETTER PREPARED BY SALTDEL FOR CIRCULATION BY AMBASSADOR BRUCE TO PERM REPS.

2. AS THERE HAVE BEEN DEVELOPMENTS OF INTEREST IN SALT SINCE AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S LAST MEETING WITH THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL ON FEB. 24, I WANT TO REPORT TO YOU ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA.

3. AS AMBASSADOR JOHNSON REPORTED AT HIS LAST CONSULTATION, ON FEB. 1 THE SOVIET DELEGATION TABLED THE TEXT OF A DRAFT AGREEMENT, THE KEY ELEMENTS OF WHICH WERE OUTLINED FOR THE COUNCIL BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON ON FEB. 24. AS AMBASSADOR JOHNSON NOTED AT THAT TIME, THE US SIDE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS ITSELF TO THE SOVIET DRAFT, BUT SOUGHT TO ARRIVE AT

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A MEETING OF THE MINDS WITH THEM ON THE BASIC ISSUES WHICH WE

FELT SHOULD BE RESOLVED BEFORE UNDERTAKING THE DRAFTING OF A TEXT. THEN, ON MARCH 5, THE US SIDE TABLED A DRAFT AGREEMENT WHICH INCORPORATED THE US POSITIONS AMBASSADOR JOHNSON DESCRIBED HERE LAST MONTH.

4. THE US DRAFT AGREEMENT IS MORE SPECIFIC AND DETAILED IN ITS PROVISIONS THAN THE SOVIET DRAFT. THIS REFLECTS OUR BELIEF THAT THE NEW AGREEMENT SHOULD BE AS CLEAR, UNAMBIGUOUS AND SELF-CONTAINED A DOCUMENT AS POSSIBLE. THE TWO DRAFTS REFLECT THE KEY SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SIDES WHICH AMBASSADOR JOHNSON DISCUSSED HERE. THESE DIFFERENCES CENTER AROUND THE SYSTEMS TO BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE AGGREGATE LIMITATIONS AND THE MEASURES REQUIRED TO ASSURE ADEQUATE VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE MIRV LIMITATIONS.

5. AFTER THE TABLING OF THE US DRAFT, THE HEADS OF DELEGATION AGREED TO ESTABLISH THREE WORKING GROUPS TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THESE INCLUDE A DEFINITIONS GROUP THAT IS FOCUSING ON WHICH SYSTEMS ARE TO BE LIMITED BY THE AGREEMENT TOGETHER WITH THEIR APPROPRIATE DEFINITIONS; A VERIFICATION GROUP THAT IS FOCUSING ON PROBLEMS RELATED TO THIS ASPECT OF THE AGREEMENT; AND A DRAFTING GROUP THAT IS HANDLING THE REMAINING ASPECTS OF THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT. EACH OF THESE GROUPS INCLUDES ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OF EACH DELEGATION, AS WELL AS APPROPRIATE STAFF.

6. IN ADDITION TO REGULAR PLENARY MEETINGS, THE WORKING GROUPS ARE MEETING INFORMALLY SEVERAL TIMES A WEEK AND REPORTING AD REFERENDUM TO HEADS OF DELEGATION, WHO IN TURN REPORT AD REFERENDUM TO THEIR GOVERNMENT. THESE GROUPS HAVE DONE MUCH USEFUL WORK IN REFINING THE MAIN ISSUES, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT MUCH WORK STILL LIES AHEAD. IN THIS CONNECTION, BOTH SIDES AGREED TO REMAIN IN SESSION AT EASTER, RATHER THAN RECESS AS HAS BEEN DONE IN OTHER YEARS. JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SALTT00119
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750114-0352
From: SALT TALKS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750489/aaaaddbd.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 USNATO 1568, 75 STATE 066561
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <01 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DRAFT NAC LETTER (SALT TWO-590)
TAGS: PARM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006